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SAMPLE LESSON

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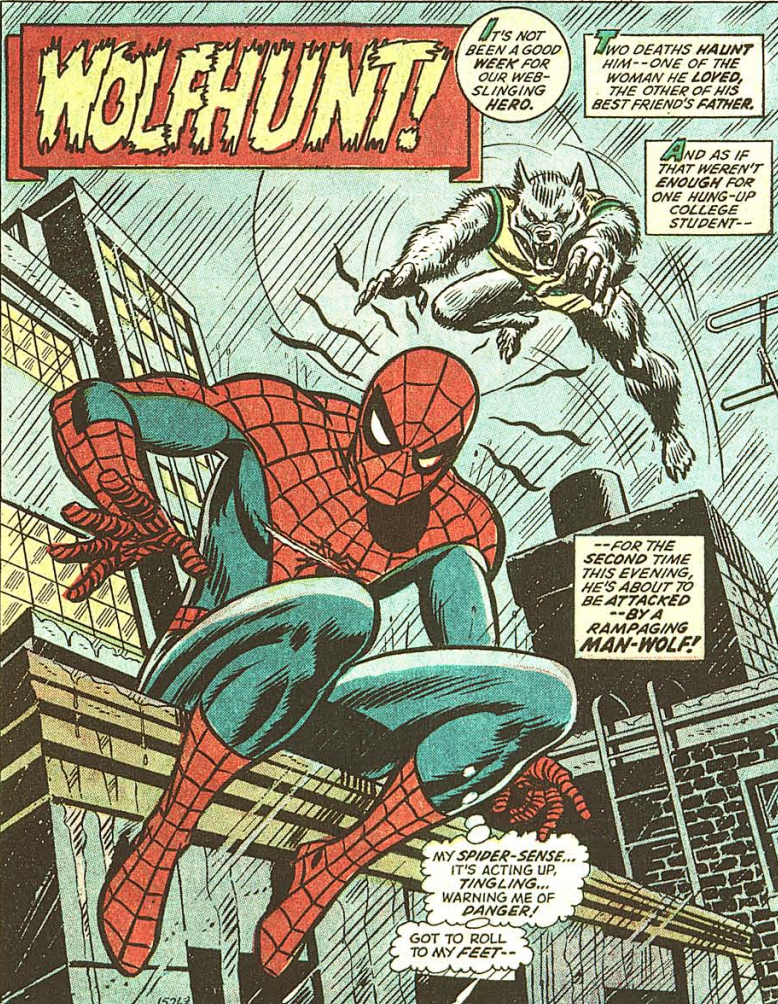
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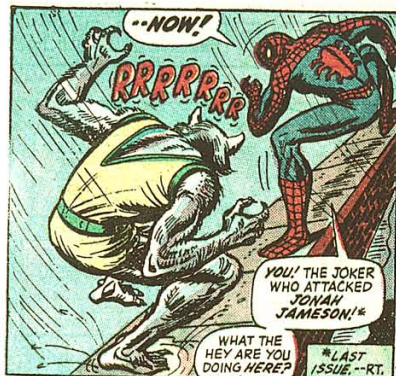
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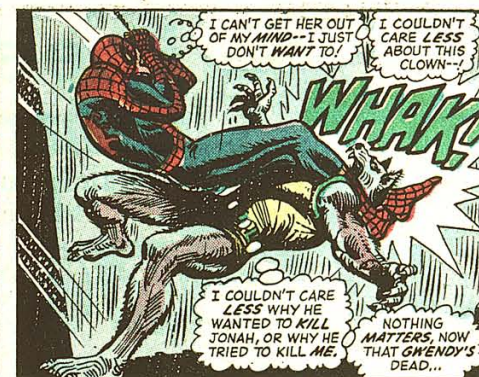
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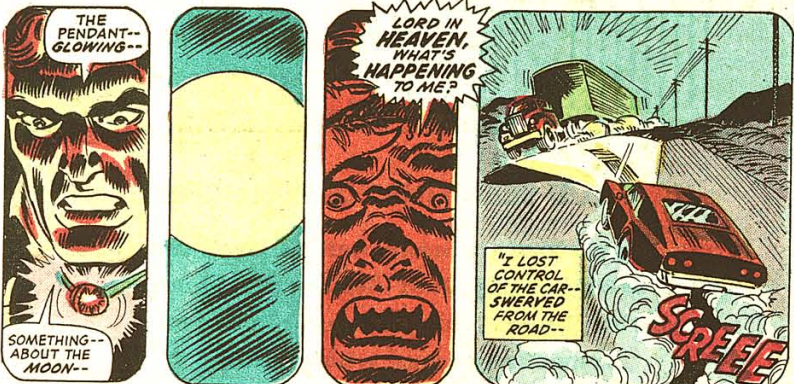
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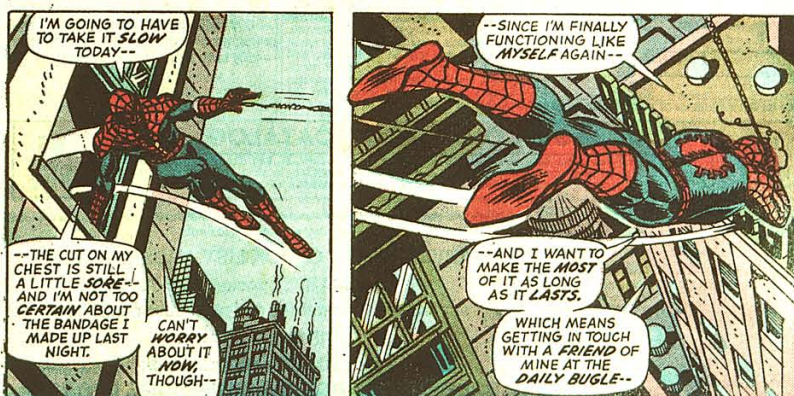
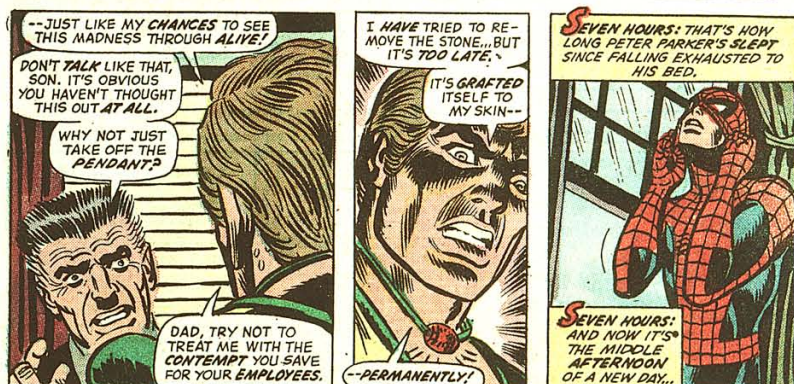
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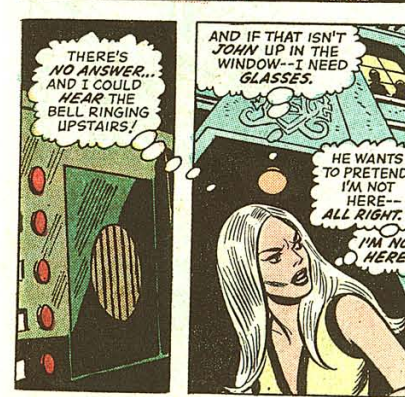


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AND IF THAT ISN'T JOHN UP IN THE WINDOW--I NEED GLASSES.

HE WANTS TO PRETEND I'M NOT HERE-- ALL RIGHT. I'M NOT HERE!



AND UPSTAIRS... NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, DAD: BETTER LEAVE...

SOMETHING CHANGES IN ME WHEN I BECOME... THAT THING.

I WANT TO HURT THE PEOPLE I LOVE-- LIKE KRISTINE-- AND LIKE YOU!

NOW, SON...



IF YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME THE REASON YOU ATTACKED ME-- WAS TO KILL ME--

YOU WANTED MY HELP-- DON'T YOU SEE THAT, JOHN?

YOU CAME TO ME FOR HELP--

--AND YOU-YOU COULDN'T STOP YOURSELF--YOUR ANIMAL SELF-- FROM--FROM--

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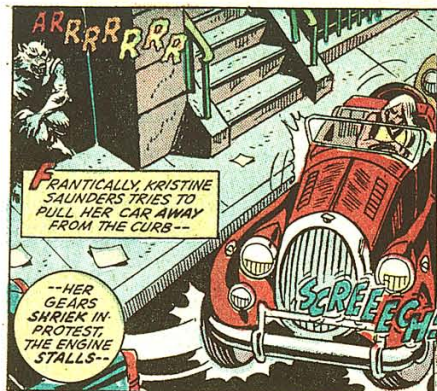
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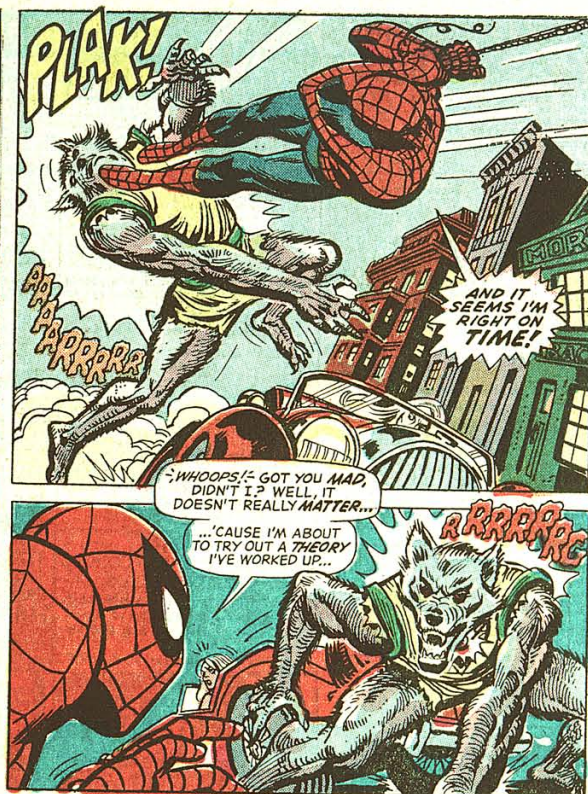


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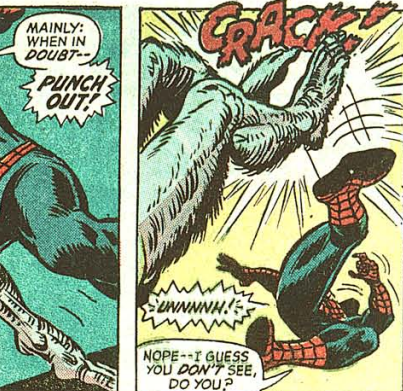
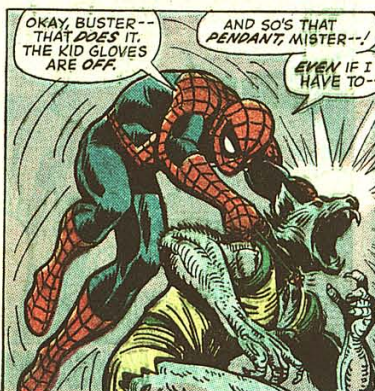
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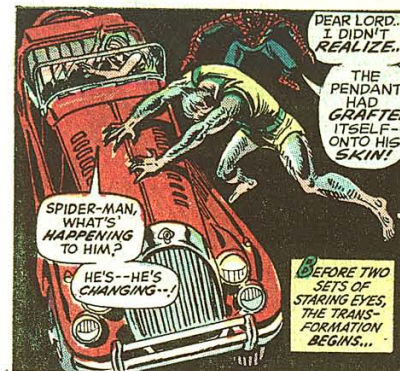
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(Or: Just The Son of Satan And Me — And Satana Makes Threat!)

ITEM! You might've guessed — and probably did — that when mirthful Marvel finally produced a full-scale parody mag, we'd do it with a vengeance! And we have! On July 10th, the first far-out issue of our brand-new **CRAZY Magazine** goes on sale — headlining some of the biggest, brightest names in the humor field! We'll let you dig the full details on our awe-inspiring ad elsewhere in this issue (it was specially designed by **MARV WOLFMAN**, who's been helping **STAN** and **ROY** get it all together) — but we can't resist telling you that, just for the heck of it, a bunch of our Bullpen biggies couldn't resist turning Hollywood on its end and posing for a host of gagged-up photos therein! Why not try an ish, efendi? That's **CRAZY** — just 40¢ for 52 big pages wherever magazines are displayed!

ITEM! This month likewise heralds the mind-bending beginning of a startling new series we call **THE SON OF SATAN**. This one not only picks up where **GHOST RIDER** left off in the pages of **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT**, but guest-stars our supernatural cyclist just for good measure. Sneak a peek at what **GROOVY GARY FRIEDRICH** and **HAPPY HERB TRIMPE** are layin' down — and see if you don't find **Daimon Hellstrom**, **THE SON OF SATAN**, one of the most phantasmagorical new Marvel creations of all!

ITEM! Make way for — **SATANAI!** That's

right — our Son of Satan hero-villain is barely out of the brimstone bag, and already he's sporting a sinister (but beautiful) sister! Strictly speaking, she's the Devil's Daughter, not a full-fledged kissing cousin of Count Dracula, but nonetheless she'll be bat-winging it your way in the second great issue of **VAMPIRE TALES**, now on sale (as is the third big ish of **MONSTERS UNLEASHED**, for that matter). Who knows? Between **Satana** and the macabre **Morbis**, **VAMPIRE TALES** may just give our smash **DRACULA LIVES** title a run for its blood-money!

ITEM! Looks like it's cross-over time at mixed-up Marvel! Try these tantalizing tidbits on for size: • Remember the android called the Recorder, from **THOR**? Well, he's more enigmatic and eerie than ever in the pages of **WARLOCK** — now on sale! • Meanwhile, Kraven the Hunter (let's see now — what mag was that he appeared in, again?) stalks **DAREDEVIL** in the nighted streets of San Francisco, and one Dr. Spectrum (formerly of **AVENGERS** infamy) is trying for revenge on **IRON MAN**! • All this, plus a titanic clash between wall-crawling **SPIDER-MAN** and the savage **SUB-MARINER** in the current ish of **MARVEL TEAM-UP**, oughta keep a few heads spinning till next time!

ITEM! Oh yes — we almost forgot! We

want to apologize for accidentally misleading a few of you in a recent Bullpen Bulletin, when we mistakenly reported the cover price of our new **HAUNT OF HORROR** digest-size magazine at 60¢ instead of the correct 75¢. We mixed it up for a moment with **MONSTER MADNESS** — which itself has just added fifteen coppers to its price and a bunch of pages to its format, to become (under **Roy** and our hard-working new recruit **TONY ISABELLA**) a bigger bargain than ever! If you don't believe us, pick up our fabulous fourth issue — which zeroes in on none other than the immortal **KING KONG** — and see what we mean!

ITEM! A reminder that **SAVAGE TALES** #2 should still be on sale, if you're living right! This one features work by the likes of **THOMAS, SMITH, BUSCEMA, KANE, BRUNNER**, and top comic-strip illustrator **AL WILLIAMSON**. Matter of fact, **Roy** and **Janie Thomas** just paid a whirlwind weekend visit to **Al's** rural retreat especially to line up some of the finest action sketches you'd ever want to see — just to decorate the pages of **SAVAGE TALES**, which may just be the supreme achievement yet in the cataclysmic career of **CONAN THE BARBARIAN**. Nuff said!

ITEM! Didja notice we just ran out of room? Oh, you did, huh? Oh well... See ya next time, Marvelite!

THE SPIDERS WEB

Dear Gerry and group,
Shocking but necessary, I think you've done the right thing. The story line needed to be changed. I don't mean to imply that I was pleased, but **Gwen Stacy** was always to be a perfect character, and that part of the mag was stagnant. Just the same, it is tragic. You shouldn't work a relationship like that into the story line again unless you're prepared to consummate it.

The question now is, what happens to **Spider**? I hope it will be a true turning point, not just the removal of a central character.

Kip Hitz
4777 Oakes Rd. Dayton, Ohio 45426

Dear Marvel,
Okay, Conway, I've said it before and I'll say it again. You're a good writer, but you're just not good enough for **SPIDER-MAN**. The atrocity you committed in issue #121 was only the latest of your crimes. You must be taken off this magazine!

And would you mind explaining one thing? What do you mean by claiming that a fall from that height would kill anyone before they struck the ground? Everyday skydivers fall that distance and further before their chutes open. It doesn't kill them. I myself have fallen that distance skydiving and I'm still around.

So not only do you kill **Gwen Stacy**, you kill her in a way that doesn't make sense. And, even if there is some scientific explanation which I do not grasp, then half of the characters in **Marvel Comics** should be dead because they are always falling from such heights and being saved at the last minute. **Marvel Comics** seem to be getting less consistent every month, and your consistency used to be one of the greatest things about **Marvel**.

I am disgusted with all of you for letting issue #121 happen.

Richard Nathan
5307 Sepulveda Blvd. Van Nuys, Calif. 91401

Dear Persons,
Thank you for taking my advice. I didn't.

expect you to, and I certainly didn't expect you to follow my suggestion in such a drastic manner. A few issues ago, I wrote you a brief letter concerning Peter Parker's journalistic career, and at the end, I tossed off a post-script requesting that you get rid of **Marvel's** prize twerp, **Gwen Stacy**. And in **SPIDER-MAN** #121, you did it. Congratulations on a good move.

Of course when I saw the cover, I was making all sorts of guesses. I knew the **Green Goblin** would be the villain, so I suspected you'd kill off **Norman Osborn**. You can only give a person amnesia so many times (it was already getting monotonous), then there's always Aunt May, who's been tottering on the brink of death with a strong tail-wind ever since **SPIDER** #1. A thought even occurred to my brain that you might kick off **J.J.J.** just for laughs. I never imagined you could actually kill **Gwen**. You have more intelligence than I gave you credit for.

I fervently hope **Gwen** doesn't make a miraculous recovery in #122 (or in any subsequent issues). I also hope Peter doesn't mourn her too long. Even though he was stupidly in love with her, how long can he grieve over a person whose brain was constructed entirely out of old Pepsi bottles, and whose personality had the exact color, consistency, and flavor of a loaf of Wonder Bread?

As long as we're discussing the women in Peter's mag, do not ever have **Mary Jane Watson** fall in love with **Harry O**! Of course **M.J.'s** immature (so is **Harry**; he's the one on **LSB**), but that doesn't mean she hates men. She just doesn't want any short-haired, neurotic, spoiled acid-head (or even a well-adjusted dude) trying to own her. Keep her independent, but do develop her personality, that the way to give a female character personality is to give her a romance. We know **M.J.** isn't made out of **Wonder Bread** and **mayonnaise** like a certain happily-departed blonde-brain, but what is she made of?

Jan C Hollingsworth
1415 East Second St.
Port Angeles, Wash. 98362

And there you have it. Solemn acceptance. Fierce anger. Eloquent joy. A sampling of

the maddening wide spectrum of response to the death of **Gwen Stacy** in **SPIDER-MAN** #121.

At this point, we feel obliged to take a paragraph or two to explain a few points of contention.
First, for the many who wrote and complained that the fall alone could not have killed **Gwen** if she were unconscious (and therefore unable to be scared to death, the usual explanation for a person dying before hitting the ground), it saddens us to have to say that the whiplash effect she underwent when **Spider**'s webbing stopped her so suddenly was, in fact, what killed her. In short, it was impossible for Peter to save her. He couldn't have swung down in time; if he had done nothing, she still would certainly have perished. There was no way out.

Secondly, the why of it all. We gotta be honest and admit that it wasn't **Gerry's** idea alone. **Kip Hitz** is very close when, in his letter above, he calls it "necessary." **Gerry** had been reading over the past few years' issues and had come to the conclusion that something was wrong — or, more accurately, missing. The relationship between **Pete** and **Gwen** had been through a lot of inconsequential ups and downs, and unless the two were to be married, there was nowhere else to take it. But marriage seemed wrong, too. Peter just wasn't ready.

So **Gerry**, **Roy**, and **Stan** debated the question long and hard... and it turned out that all had reached the same inescapable conclusion. **Gwen's** death was simply fated to happen.

We've said before that our stories just seem to write themselves, that we often don't have any control over them. This was such a case. Events had shaped themselves in such a way that their only logical resolution was tragedy. And the rest, as they say, is history.

So don't blame **Gerry**. Don't blame **Stan**. Don't blame anyone. Only the inscrutable, inexorable workings of circumstances are culpable this time.

And no one regrets it more than we. It was a hard, hard story to write.

*Nuff said!

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